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PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

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Project: Tuscan Hills

Project Sponsor: Mr. Russell Ranson

Agency and Permit Number: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Project Location: Northeast York County, South Carolina, southeast of the town of Fort Mill (Figures 1 and 2)

Field Personnel: Nicole Southerland and Debi Hacker

Date of Survey: August 1, 2011

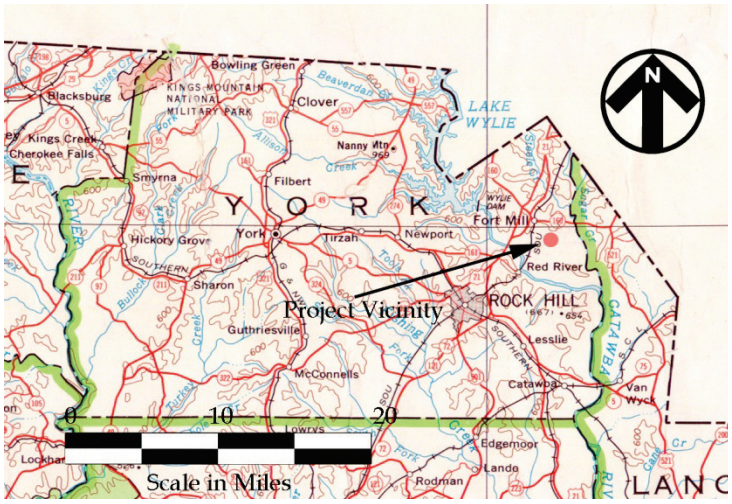

Figure 1. Project vicinity in York County (basemap is USGS South Carolina 1:500,000)

Objective: To perform a Phase I survey on approximately 5.6 acres of the proposed Majestic Grove neighborhood in the attempt to identify and record archaeological and/or historical sites that may be on the property.

The survey area was defined by the USACE in a July 20, 2011 email from Mr. Les Parker to Mr. Russell Ranson stating "The Action Area as defined by the Corps for the road crossing of waters of the United States (WOUS) will be limited to Lots 29 and 30 and that portion of the Natural Open Space adjacent to the road crossing of WOUS as shown on the drawing prepared by Williams Engineering." As a result, only this area was examined during this study.

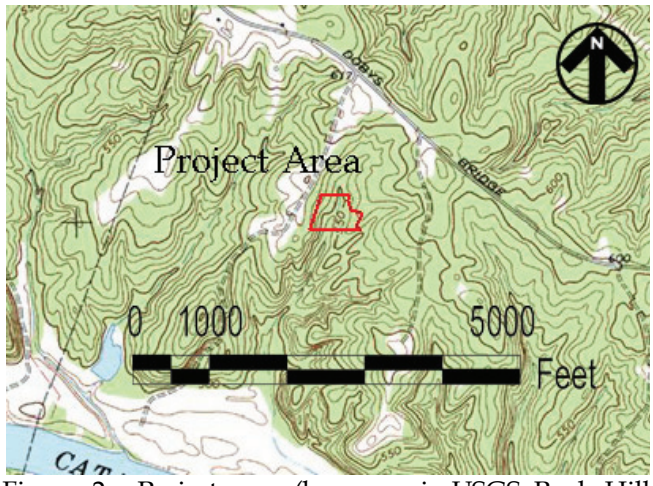

Figure 2. Project area (basemap is USGS Rock Hill East 7.5').

Survey Description: The 5.6 acre projection area is in the southwest corner of the proposed 65.3 acre Majestic Grove neighborhood (Figure 3). The tract is undulating with no distinct ridge top. A small stream running north-south bisects the tract with a small arm of the stream forking

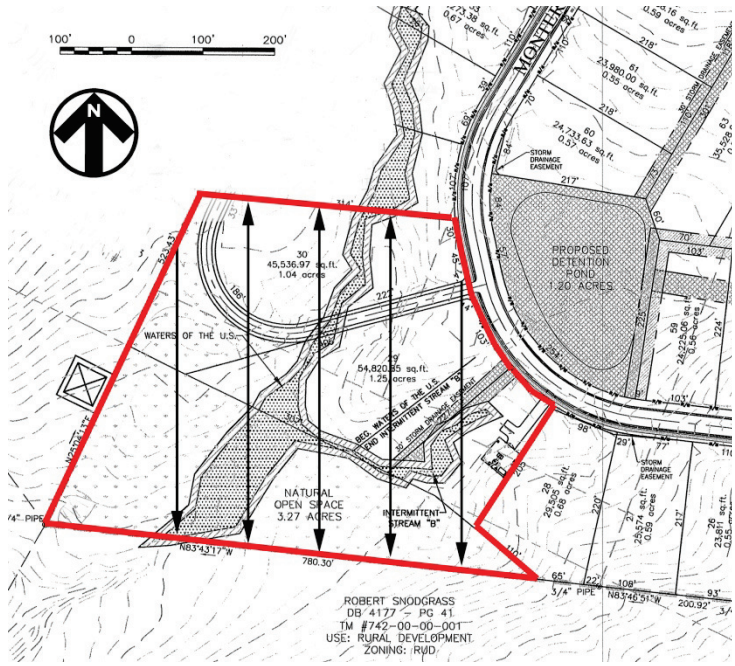

Figure 3. Project area showing transects.

east. Most of the tract is in a dense mixed pine and hardwood forest (Figure 4), however the southern and southwestern portion of the tract has been cleared for the transmission line that runs east-southeast, west-northwest through the property (Figure 5). This right-of-way has good surface visibility, but waist-high grass covers much of this area.

The York County Soil Survey shows the majority of the tract (77%) covered with well drained soils including Cecil sandy loam on 6-10% slopes (14.7%), Durham sandy loam on 2-6% slopes (22.9%), and Vance sandy loam on 15-25% slopes (39.5%). The Cecil and Vance soils are eroded. The remained of the tract has gullied land (11.2%) and alluvial soils (11.8%). Elevations in the tract range from about 540 to 570 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The 1934 Reconnaissance Erosion Map of South Carolina shows this portion of York County to have 75-100% of the surface gone and occasional gullies.

We were informed by the client that they had already performed background research through ArchSite, which would identify any previously recorded archaeological or architectural sites. We were told that no sites were found within a half mile of the project area.

In addition to that information, we opted to examine several historic map of the area to see if any structures or sites were located in or around the project area. These maps include Mills' *Atlas* of 1825 (Figure 6a), the 1905 Soil Survey of York County (Figure 6b), and the 1950 *General Highway and Transportation Map of York County* (Figure 6c).

Fieldwork involved the placement of five transects running from east to west in the project area (see Figure 3). Shovel tests were performed to the north and south off the existing paved alley road with 24 tests excavated. Profiles for shovel tests were recorded with tests measuring 1.0 foot in diameter and extending to subsoil, which was anywhere from 0.2 foot to about 1.0 foot in depth. In addition to shovel testing, several spots at the southern and western edges of the property had good surface visibility. These areas were also subjected to a pedestrian survey.


Figure 4. View of pine and hardwood forest in the project area.

Figure 5. View of transmission line and vegetation.

Results: As previously mentioned, the background check of ArchSite was performed by the client. No sites were reportedly found. The three historic maps failed to show any structures or other sites in the vicinity of the project area.

Shovel testing revealed highly eroded soils that failed to produce any artifacts. The pedestrian survey also failed to identify any remains.

Summary: As a result of this investigation, no archaeological or historic sites were found. This is likely due to the eroded soils and the lack of a distinct ridge top.

It is possible that archaeological remains may be encountered during construction activities. As always, contractors should be advised to report any discoveries of concentrations of artifacts (such as bottles, ceramics, or projectile points) or brick rubble to the project engineer, who should in turn report the material to the State Historic Preservation Office, or Chicora Foundation (the process of dealing with late discoveries is discussed in 36CFR800.13(b)(3)). No further land altering activities should take place in the vicinity of these discoveries until they have been examined by an archaeologist and, if necessary, have been processed according to 36CFR800.13(b)(3).

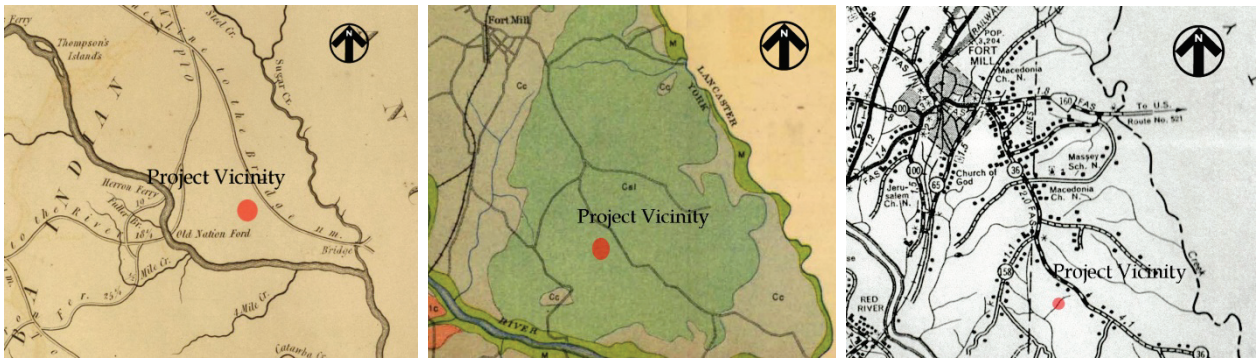

Figure 6. a- Mills' *Atlas*, b- 1905 Soil Survey, c- 1950 *General Highway and Transportation Map*